

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 NASA-01 ERDA-05 OES-06 EB-07 COME-00

IO-13 CCO-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01 OC-05 BIB-01 /114 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1687

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07443

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: INTELSAT, ETEL, PORG, CH, TW, UK

SUBJECT: INTELSAT - PRC INTENTIONS

REF: STATE 110488

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED REFTEL WITH TANNER, COMMUNICATIONS DEPT., AND BATES, FAR EAST DEPT., BOTH OF FCO. GEDDES, WHO LED UK DELEGATION TO SINGAPORE MEETING OF INTELSAT SIGNATORIES AND WHO IS PRESENTLY CHAIRMAN INTELSAT BOARD OF GOVERNORS, IS ABROAD FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS, SO HE HAS NOT BEEN CONSULTED. IF GEDDES HAS ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PRC INTENTIONS RE INTELSAT OR IF ANY NEW INFO COMES TO UK ATTENTION, FCO OFFICIALS PROMISED TO LET US
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KNOW AND THEY ASKED IF WE WOULD KEEP THEM INFORMED AS

WELL.

2. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN PARA. 3 REFTEL,
BRITISH SAID FOLLOWING:

(A) PRC HAS NOT CONTACTED UK NOR, TO BEST OF UK
KNOWLEDGE, ANY OTHERS REGARDING CHIREP IN
INTELSAT. UK HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY HEARD UNCON-
FIRMED REPORT DESCRIBED PARA. 1 REFTEL.

(B) BRITISH HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT WOULD LEAD THEM
TO BELIEVE PRC INTENDS TO MOUNT EFFORTS TO OUST
ROC FROM INTELSAT THIS YEAR. BRITISH UNDERSTAND
THIS TO BE PRC OBJECTIVE, BUT WOULD EXPECT PRC
TO HAVE INITIATED BEFORE NOW A LOBBYING EFFORT
THAT WOULD HAVE COME TO UK'S ATTENTION IF EFFORT
WERE TO BE MADE IN SEPTEMBER ASSEMBLY MEETING.

(C & D) BRITISH STATE PRC IS UNHAPPY WITH PRESENT INTELSAT
ARRANGEMENT WITH ROC A MEMBER AND PRC A NON-
MEMBER USER. HOWEVER, PRC HAS NOT, THUS FAR AT
LEAST, SHOWN ANY GREAT INTEREST IN JOINING
INTELSAT AND WOULD PROBABLY BE SATISFIED IF PRC
AND ROC WERE BOTH TO BECOME NON-MEMBER USERS.
BRITISH UNDERSTAND THAT IF ROC DOES NOT WITHDRAW
FROM INTELSAT MEMBERSHIP, PRC WILL TRY TO HAVE
THEM OUSTED, BUT TIMING OF SUCH A MOVE IS UN-
CERTAIN. IF AND WHEN SUCH A MOVE IS ATTEMPTED,
BRITISH BELIEVE IT WILL PROBABLY BE SUCCESSFUL,
IN WHICH CASE PRC ITSELF MIGHT DECIDE TO JOIN
INTELSAT AND THEN DECLARE TAIWAN GROUND STATIONS
TO BE "PIRATE STATIONS" AND NOT ELIGIBLE FOR
ACCESS TO INTELSAT SYSTEM.

3. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND BRITISH READING OF PRC INTEN-
TIONS CONCERNING INTELSAT IS NOT NEW BUT STEMS LARGELY
FROM THEIR REPORTS OF 1975 VISIT TO PEKING BY ALLEGRETT
WHO WAS AT THAT TIME CHAIRMAN OF INTELSAT BOARD OF
GOVERNORS.

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